

# NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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## Traffic Safety Education Project Launched

**A** N ENERGETIC ATTACK ON THE problem of reducing highway accidents, in the form of an expanded program of traffic safety education, is being launched during March by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Miss Marian Telford, National Chairman of Safety, who is the Consultant on Child Safety and Director of Field Activities for the National Safety Council, is directing the new work.

Responsibility of the individual for improving highway safety conditions will be stressed, and children, as well as their parents and teachers, will be urged to assume responsibility for their highway duties as motorists and pedestrians.

Emphasis will be placed on the seven points relating to traffic safety included in the present safety program of the Congress, outlined in the *Parent-Teacher Manual* as follows:

1. Sponsorship of standard schoolboy safety patrols.
2. Proper marking for streets approaching schools.
3. Strict observance of laws governing minimum age for young automobile drivers.
4. Instruction in automobile driving for students in highschool.
5. Cooperation with police in securing maximum protection at school crossings.
6. Support of the drivers' license law.
7. Improvement of school bus facilities.

A new pamphlet carrying suggestions for activities on these points is being prepared for the use of Congress parent-teacher associations throughout the nation. It is hoped that this booklet will be ready for distribution at spring conventions of the state Congresses.

An Advisory Committee has been appointed by the National President, Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, to consult with Miss Telford in making the program more effective. The committee is composed of two former National Presidents, Mrs. Hugh Bradford, now National Chairman of Budget, and Mrs. A. H. Reeve, now National Chairman of International Relations, who initiated safety work in the Congress in 1924; Mrs. J. K. Pettengill, First Vicepresident, who formerly directed the Department of Public Welfare, in which the Safety Committee functions; Mrs. A. B. Shuttleworth, Director of the Department of Public Welfare; Mrs. M. P. Summers, Director of the Department of Health; Mrs. Ralph Brodie, President of the New York State Congress; and Mrs. Langworthy, member ex officio.

## Varied Program for Milwaukee Convention May 11-15

**I** NTERNATIONAL NIGHT PROMISES to be one of the most popular features of the 40th Annual Convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, in Milwaukee, May 11-15. Under the direction of the Milwaukee Women's Committee, this program on Thursday evening, May 14, will present demonstrations of the cultural achievements of many nationalities represented in the citizenry of Milwaukee. Mrs. A. H. Reeve, National Chairman of International Relations, and Honorary President of the International Federation of Home and School, will be the speaker. Her subject will be "Weren't We All of Us?"

On Wednesday evening, May 13, Dr. Glenn Frank, President of Wisconsin University, will speak on "Does Education Insure Character?"

A varied program, on the theme, "Relation of the Home to Character Formation," offering something for everyone, has been planned for the Milwaukee Convention. For those interested in acquiring practical information to aid them in carrying on successful parent-teacher work, the Convention offers an unparalleled opportunity to learn about Congress work as it is carried on in every state. The studiously inclined will be embarrassed by the richness of the subject matter offered in the afternoon conferences—the choice of one or two subjects may be difficult, when the program offers an array of fourteen fascinating topics under consideration at the same hour. The conferences will be real conferences, where delegates will have an opportunity to ask questions and receive direct help on their immediate problems. It is assumed that most of the delegates to the Convention attend because they wish help in parent-teacher work, and the Convention program is designed to give the needed assistance.

### Governor LaFollette at Banquet

For the gregariously inclined, many pleasant social events are in store. The annual banquet on Tuesday evening, May 12, will be the biggest social occasion of the week. Governor Philip LaFollette will deliver the address of the evening, on the subject "Human Needs." It is expected that delegates and visitors will swell the banquet attendance nearly to the 2,000 mark. In order to insure accommodations for every one, the Wisconsin Congress has planned that the banquet shall be held in the arena of the Milwaukee Auditorium. The famous German band, Heinie and His Grenadiers, well-known to radio audiences, will furnish music and entertainment.

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## National Convention

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### National Mothersingers

The recital by the great National Mothersingers Chorus, under the direction of Miss Mayme E. Irons, National Music Chairman, on Wednesday evening, May 13, is eagerly anticipated, especially by those interested in music. Interest in the mothersingers movement was greatly stimulated by the singing of the Chicago chorus each week last year on the National Congress radio program. Of the National Mothersingers, many persons have felt as does Edith Wasson McElroy, of *Better Homes and Gardens*, who writes: "Quite amazingly, it (the Congress) incites its members to Herculean labors and inspires them to sing as they work. To attend a National Convention and to hear the great Mothersingers Chorus was a tremendous experience."

Organization of mothersingers groups as a project of the National Music Committee of the Congress is first mentioned in the 1927 Music leaflet. Since that time, the chorus idea has taken hold and spread with amazing rapidity to all parts of the country, until today almost every local association, no matter how small, has a group of singing mothers.

The National Mothersingers Chorus was organized in 1929 and made its first appearance as a feature of the 1930 National Convention in Denver.

Chorus selections for this year's concert were announced early in the year by Miss Irons, and groups in every state have rehearsed these songs for months. The selections include "To Music," by Robert Franz; "Sunbeams," by Landon Ronald; the "Cradle Song," by Alexander MacFadyen; "The Lamb," by H. Walford Davies; and "Gloria," by Buzzi-Peccia. Group singing in the hotel lobby will be led by mothersingers groups participating in the National Mothersingers Chorus.

### Youth Conference

Recognizing the problems of youth as one of the major issues confronting parents and teachers, the Program Committee has invited the youth of the land to make his voice heard at a Youth Conference on Thursday morning, May 14. The conference will be offered in place of the presentations of the departments of Public Welfare and Extension, leaders of which will play an important part in the conference. Mrs. A. B. Shuttleworth, Public Welfare Department Director, and Mrs. Noyes Darling Smith, Extension Department Director, will preside; Mrs. J. K. Pettengill will lead the panel discussion for the young people; and the national committee chairmen of motion pictures, recreation, safety, library service, and juvenile protection, together with boys and girls of highschool and college age will constitute the panel.

### Tree Planting

Mrs. Arthur A. Birney, Honorary Vice-president of the National Congress, will be honored on Sunday afternoon, May 10, when a white oak tree will be planted in her honor on Lincoln Terrace, bordering Lake Michigan. Mrs. Birney is the sister-in-law of Mrs. Alice McLellan Birney, co-founder of the National Congress, and has been identified with the organization from its beginning.

A memorial service will be held for Mrs. David O. Mears, beloved pioneer Congress worker and former National Chairman of Founders Day, whose death occurred last September. Although too frail to attend National Conventions for the past three or four years, Mrs. Mears never missed sending a telegram of greeting to the delegate body. She will be sadly missed at this Convention.

### Pre-Convention Events

Although the formal opening of the Convention does not take place until Monday afternoon, May 11, many important meetings will be held during the preceding three days. On Friday, May 8, several special committees will hold meetings. The National Board of Managers will meet on Saturday, and registration of Board members and local delegates will be held. A courtesy dinner honoring the National Board will take place Saturday evening, at Hotel Schroeder, with the Wisconsin Congress as hosts. Following the dinner will be meetings of the State Presidents' Conference, with Mrs. A. R. Williams, President, presiding, and of the National Chairmen's Conference, with Miss Mary Murphy presiding in the absence of the chairman, Miss Julia Wright Merrill. The Executive Committee will meet Sunday morning. The annual luncheon of the State Presidents' Club is scheduled for Sunday noon, with Mrs. W. W. Day presiding in the absence of Mrs. W. Sumner Covey, President of the Club. Vesper services will consist of an interdenominational service, with three brief talks on the Convention theme.

Formal opening of the Convention will take place Monday afternoon, at 1:30 o'clock, the opening having been deferred in order to give delegates an opportunity to register during the morning. The opening session will consist of an address by the National President, Mrs. Langworthy, and reports of officers and special committee chairmen.

Delegates to this year's Convention will represent the largest membership in the history of the National Congress. Indications are that the membership goal of "Two million members in 1936" will be more than reached.

### Watching the Budget

Attending the National Convention need not be expensive. Room rates to suit every budget are offered in Milwaukee. Delegates may pay as much or as little as they feel they can afford for living quarters there. Low rates are offered at the Convention headquarters, the Schroeder Hotel, and at neighboring hotels within easy walking distance of all Convention sessions.

Prices at the Schroeder Hotel range from \$2.50 to \$4.00 for single rooms, and \$5.00 to \$10.00 for double rooms. Accommodations may be secured as low as \$1.50 per person where four persons share a room. Other hotels in the immediate vicinity of the Schroeder offer desirable accommodations at attractive rates: (minimum prices do not include baths) Carlton, \$1.50 up; Colonial, \$1.50 up; La Salle, \$2.25 up; Martin, \$1.00 up; Maryland, \$1.25 up; Medford, \$1.50 up; Pfister, \$2.50 up; Plankinton, \$1.75 up; Randolph, \$1.50 up; Republican, \$1.50 up; Shorecrest, \$3.00 up; Wisconsin, \$2.00 up.

Delegates desiring accommodations outside of the hotels may secure assistance by addressing the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers, 119 Monona Avenue, Madison. Special housing problems will be given the careful consideration of the local committee. If you have a special housing problem, make your needs known as early as possible in order to insure the best accommodations.

Transportation costs may also be kept low. Last year, hundreds of delegates traveled to Miami by automobile, pooling their expenses and sharing the cost, and undoubtedly many delegates to Milwaukee will do the same. The mileage cost is reduced to the irreducible minimum where 4 or 5 delegates divide the expenses for motoring. There are numerous pleasant and comfortable tourist homes along the highway where the motorist can stop overnight for less than a dollar. Bus rates are low, which probably accounts for the popularity of this mode of travel, aided doubtless by the romantic movies depicting the thrills of travel by bus.

Special railroad rates of one and one-third fare for the round trip are offered on the Identification Certificate Plan. Each state president will distribute the certificates to members in her state who wish them. Tickets will go on sale in all sections of the country early enough to permit delegates and National Board members to reach Milwaukee in ample time for any Pre-Convention meetings which they may wish to attend. On the west coast, for instance, the reduced-fare tickets will be sold as early as May 1.

### Banquet Reservations

Reservations for the Banquet, Tuesday, May 12, should be sent directly to Mrs. J. B. Basteyns, 3341 North Bremen Street, Milwaukee. Banquet tickets will be \$1.65 and a check or money order should accompany all reservations.

## NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

### Parent-Teacher Section at Superintendence Convention

Dr. Charles H. Judd, Professor of Education and Chairman, Department of Education, University of Chicago, was the speaker at the Parent-Teacher Section of the Department of Superintendence Convention in St. Louis, February 25, on the subject "Relation of the School Board to the Public." Mrs. J. K. Pettengill, First Vicepresident, presided in the absence of Mrs. Langworthy, who was prevented by illness from attending the convention. A panel discussion followed Dr. Judd's talk, on the question "What are the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the school board to the public?"

The panel considered that the board of education, as an agency established by the state, should develop local educational policies in harmony with constitutional and legislative requirements. Acting within these limits, the board should concern itself primarily with the major policies, leaving the administration of the schools to a professional staff, working under the direction of a superintendent appointed to carry out these policies.

The board of education should serve as an interpretive agency, placing before the public the needs, accomplishments, and developments of the school. The board has an obligation to see that a proper program of financing is arranged which will enable the administrative staff to develop a sound educational program in harmony with American ideals of free public education.

Participating in the panel were:

Mrs. D. J. Coolidge, President, St. Louis District of the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers; Miss Esther Helbig, Elementary Classroom Teacher, Dubuque, Iowa; Mrs. L. R. Hubele, Fourth Vice-president, Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers; Dean Theodore W. H. Irion, University of Missouri; Mrs. Warren L. Mabrey, President, Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers; Miss Margaret Marble, Past President, Cincinnati Teachers Association, Cincinnati, Ohio; Miss Lillian Miner, Supervisor, Norfolk County Public Schools, Norfolk, Virginia; Dean Genevieve Johnson, Dean of Girls, San Jacinto Highschool, Houston, Texas; Dr. C. E. Benson, Professor of Educational Psychology, New York University; C. A. Larson, Supervising Principal, Aurora, Illinois.

### PARENT-TEACHER RADIO FORUM

N.B.C.—WJZ Blue Network  
Wednesday, 2:30-3:00 P. M., E.S.T.  
*Sponsored by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the University of Chicago, and the National Broadcasting Company*

**April 8**

#### SUPERVISED AFTER-SCHOOL PLAY

Charles H. McCloy, Research Professor in Anthropometry and Physical Education, University of Iowa, Iowa City.

**April 15**

#### THE HOME WORK-SHOP

Louis Newkirk, Director of Handwork, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago.

**April 22**

#### FUNCTION OF RECREATION IN CHARACTER

Weaver Pangburn, Director of Publicity, National Recreation Association, New York City.

**April 29**

#### FARM CLUBS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH

C. W. Warburton, Director of Extension Work, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

**May 6**

#### DELINQUENCY AND ITS CONTROL

William Healy, M. D., Director, Judge Baker Guidance Center, Boston, Mass.

**May 13**

(Broadcast from National Convention in Milwaukee.)

**May 20**

#### WHAT OF THE RURAL CHILD?

Agnes Samuelson, President, National Education Association, Washington, D. C.

**May 27**

#### REST AND SLEEP OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Rose H. Alschuler, Adviser, Emergency Nursery Schools, Board of Education, Chicago.

### Dramatizing The Summer Round-Up

The "First Round-Up" written in three dramatic arrangements is available from the National Office at 10c a copy.

No. I is a formal presentation of the material.

No. II is an interesting and informal play.

No. III is a popular presentation for those eager to learn more about the Summer Round-Up and its value to the preschool child.

### Joint Committee of the N.E.A.—N.C.P.T.

The Joint Committee of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the National Education Association, of which Mrs. Langworthy is chairman, held a meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 1936, in the Municipal Auditorium, St. Louis, in connection with the meeting of the Department of Superintendence.

The committee received a tentative report of a joint committee appointed to develop a philosophy of education with highschool parent-teacher associations. The committee was continued and requested to make a further report at the convention meeting of the National Education Association in Portland, Oregon, June 27 to July 3.

The committee further considered problems which might be recommended to the National Congress and the National Education Association for joint study.

### Resolution

The American Association of Teachers Colleges, at their annual meeting in St. Louis on February 22, adopted a Resolution urging their members to cooperate in the development of parent education and home and school relationships. The Resolution states:

"In order (1) to assist in the conservation and improvement of the American home; (2) to help to bring about better understanding and cooperation between the home and school; (3) and to encourage better support of a broad and inclusive program of public education:

*Resolved*, that the American Association of Teachers Colleges pledges its cooperation with agencies such as the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the National Council of Parent Education in their efforts to develop nationwide programs in parent education;

*Resolved*, further, that the establishment of departments of parent education or courses or units in existing courses in teacher education institutions shall be encouraged by this Association."

News from State Branches

**Alabama** The Alabama Congress is holding five regional conferences, April 1-11, instead of a state convention. The theme for the meetings is "A More Human and Vital Education—the Joint Endeavor of Home, School, and Community." These conferences are miniature conventions, the purpose of them being to give to more people the benefits derived from a state convention. Miss Frances S. Hays, Education Secretary, will be the National Congress representative.

**Delaware** The Delaware Parent-Teacher Association is sponsoring a moving picture as a means of interpreting the school to the laymen who might otherwise not be in touch with the schools. The photography is by Mrs. Robert P. Robinson, State President, an expert with the camera. The legends will be by Miss Etta J. Wilson, Executive Secretary of the Delaware Parent-Teacher Association, which is providing the materials. The Delaware Citizens Association is contributing to the success of the project, in which many teachers and pupils are sharing.

**Illinois** Legislative chairmen will have the opportunity of participating in a study course conducted by the state legislative committee. A training class for leaders is being inaugurated in the Chicago area, the material used in the classes to be available for similar classes which will be held throughout the state.

**Maryland** Plans are already under way for the annual Maryland Parent-Teacher Conference, under the auspices of the Maryland Congress and the University of Maryland, to be held the week of July 13-17 at the University of Maryland, College Park.

The Safety Committee of the Maryland Congress is working on plans for a safety program in cooperation with the Automobile Club of Maryland and the American Red Cross. The purpose of the program is to interest elementary as well as high-schools in the counties in devoting some time to safety education and to establish, wherever possible, school boy safety patrols.

**Mississippi** Mrs. L. W. Jacobs, State Chairman of Character Education, formerly Editor of the *Mississippi Parent-Teacher Bulletin*, has been awarded the first prize of \$10,000 in the *Pictorial Review* and Dodd, Mead Contest, for her novel, *The Old Ashburn House*.

**New Jersey** New Jersey Congress has published a booklet entitled "Ten Years of Service," a supplement to a preceding "Twenty-five Years of Service." The booklet lists the amazing activities in the departments during the last ten-year period. Membership has increased 32,000.

Publicity has been developed until at present 40 papers in the state carry a regular parent-teacher column. (New Jersey has an official publicity insignia—an acorn inscribed with the slogan: "Publicity Arouses Thought and Action," adopted in 1929.)

In 1935, 184 parent education groups were reported, with an approximate attendance of 5,434.

In the case of the proposed million-dollar cut in teachers' pensions, it was generally conceded that the night letters sent under the leadership of the state legislative chairman saved the day. These were sent in the name of 675 associations, representing 45,000 members.

Subscriptions to the *National Parent-Teacher Magazine* have increased every year for 12 years.

**Rhode Island** In cooperation with the schools, a survey has been made by the Rhode Island Congress which records all the schools of the state and whether or not they have a parent-teacher association. Five new units and one council have been formed since October 1, 1935.

**Utah** An outline on "Character Education" to be used in P.T.A. meetings or study groups has been prepared by the Character Education Chairman of the Utah Congress, Mr. Arthur Peterson.

### Spring State Conventions

The following information concerning spring state conventions has been received in the National Office:

**CALIFORNIA**—April 28-May 1, San Jose. Theme—"Interpreting the Modern School." Mrs. Hugh Bradford and Marian Telford.

**COLORADO**—April 29-May 1, Grand Junction.

**CONNECTICUT**—April 17-18, Hartford. Theme—"New Frontiers in Parent Education." Alice Sowers and Mary England.

**DELAWARE**—April 4, Smyrna.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**—April 28-29.

**GEORGIA**—April 13-15, Macon. Theme—"Looking Forward, through the Parent-Teacher Movement." Mrs. J. K. Pettengill and Mary E. Murphy.

**HAWAII**—April 3-4, Honolulu. Theme—"Keep Informed."

**IDAHO**—April 15-17, Coeur d'Alene. Theme—"Safety, through the Parent-Teacher Association." Mrs. M. D. Wilkinson.

**ILLINOIS**—April 14-17, Chicago. Theme—"Harmony, Honesty, Industry, and Frugality—With These the Nation Shall Endure."

**INDIANA**—April 20-23, Indianapolis. Theme—"Parent-Teacher Membership—A Stabilizing Factor in the Home Life of America." Mrs. J. K. Pettengill and Mary England.

**KANSAS**—April 7-9, Parsons. Theme—"Kansas' Child, His Home and His School." Mrs. B. F. Langworthy.

**KENTUCKY**—April 20-23, Louisville. Theme—"The Home Accepts Its Responsibility." Mary England and Mrs. J. K. Pettengill.

**LOUISIANA**—April 13-15, LaFayette. Theme—"Better Parents in a Changing World." Mrs. B. F. Langworthy.

**MICHIGAN**—April 29-May 1, Benton Harbor. Theme—Character Building the Goal of Home, School, and Community. Mrs. J. K. Pettengill.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**—April 30-May 1, Manchester. Theme—"New Horizons." Mrs. F. M. Hosmer and Mrs. A. H. Reeve.

**NORTH CAROLINA**—April 22-24, Charlotte. Theme—"Looking Ahead With Our Children."

**RHODE ISLAND**—April 21-22, Providence. Theme—"Potential Significance of the Parent-Teacher Movement."

**SOUTH CAROLINA**—April 15-16, Columbia. Theme—"The Home—The Index to National Life." Mary England, Frances S. Hays, and Mrs. W. B. Aycock.

**TENNESSEE**—April 27-30, Knoxville. Theme—"The Things of the Home Brought Back to the Home." Alice Sowers, Mrs. C. H. Thorpe, Charl Williams, Dr. Joseph M. Artman.

**UTAH**—April 4-5, Salt Lake City. Theme—"The Home's Relationship to Character Building."

**WASHINGTON**—May 4-6, Tacoma. Theme—"Mental, Physical, and Spiritual Health for Home, School, and Community." Mrs. Hugh Bradford.

**WISCONSIN**—May 11-15, Milwaukee. (Combined with National Convention. The combined sessions will include only the necessary annual business of the state.)